

The Alexandria Gazette

FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 11.

POTOMAC FERRY COMPANY.—A meeting of the stockholders of this Company was held on Wednesday evening, at the banking-house of Jay Cooke & Co., in Washington, for a permanent organization and the election of directors and officers of the Company. The following persons were elected directors: H. D. Cooke, H. C. Fabnestock, L. E. Chittenden, J. B. Hutchinson, of Washington; Thomas Clyde of Philadelphia; W. B. Hatch and W. A. Darling, of New York. At a subsequent meeting of the board of directors, H. D. Cooke was elected president, and J. B. Hutchinson secretary and treasurer of the company. This company design running first-class double-end ferry-boats between this city and Washington every half hour, and will run a steamer to Mount Vernon during the summer season. The ferry wharves, both here and in Washington, are in an advanced state of completion. The company's wharves in Washington are at the foot of Seventh street, and at this place at Vowel's old wharf.

Notwithstanding the announcement from Washington that the rumors in regard to the recognition of the Southern Confederacy by France are entirely groundless, the Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune states that the son of Mr. Dayton has reached Washington as the bearer of special dispatches from his father. Mr. Dayton expresses the opinion that the recent course of the French Government in permitting Confederate vessels of war to be repaired in French ports, and allowing them freely to depart when ready for sea, foreshadows the recognition of the Confederacy.

The New York Times devotes a column of its Sunday edition to berating Frenchmen for submitting to the restrictions on the liberty of the press,—in France. It argues with eloquence, that since, liberty of the press being denied under the empire, and since "in France the removal of public grievances, the carrying out of needful reforms, cannot be effected by legislative action," "it is only amid the anarchy which attends on revolution that Frenchmen can recover their freedom."

The heavy rain of yesterday will cause the streams to rise, and make the roads very muddy.

The Washington Chronicle says: "A coal depot and repair shops for the Potomac flotilla are about to be established by the Government on Jones' Point and St. Inigoe's Creek, St. Mary's county, Maryland. This will avoid the necessity of gunboats repairing to the Navy-yard at this point for coal, &c."

A letter from the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac says an order issued on Wednesday directs that all ladies within the lines of the army shall leave at as early a day as practicable, and that no more passes shall be granted to such visitors.

Gen. Sherman, it is said, left Vicksburg on the 28th ult., to visit Gen. Banks in reference to future movements.

All is reported quiet at Knoxville and Chattanooga.

The correspondent of the New York World reports that soon after the arrival of General Grant at Washington, a council of war was held at which it was determined, on the advice of the new Lieutenant General, to make the capture of Richmond the primary object of the spring campaign. The writer further states he had been reliably informed that, to effect this result, the eleventh and twelfth corps will be brought from Chattanooga to reinforce the Army of the Potomac, and that the sixteenth and seventeenth corps will also be sent from the Mississippi River to Virginia. It is believed, he adds, that by drawing from various quarters all the available troops, an army of two hundred and fifty thousand men may be concentrated against Richmond at an early day. General Grant is said to pretest against any further attempts to penetrate the South until Richmond shall have been taken, the possession of the Confederate Capital being regarded by him as of the highest strategical value.

The decision of the Supreme Court, of St. John's, New Brunswick, in the case of the captors of the Chesapeake has been rendered, and the release of the captors ordered on the ground, 1st, That the United States has made no proper requisition for the rendition of the prisoners. 2d, That if such a requisition had been made, the act was not committed within the jurisdiction of the United States, and was not therefore, such an offense, under the extradition treaty, as would require the parties to be given up; and finally, because the police magistrate had no jurisdiction, in the case, or if he had such jurisdiction the warrant issued for the commitment of the prisoners was insufficient to justify their detention.

It is reported that the Federal troops have reoccupied Suffolk, Va. A skirmish occurred near that place on Wednesday last, between some Confederates and three companies of negro cavalry, in which, it is said, the Confederate loss was twenty-five, whilst the Federal loss is set down at ten killed, the number wounded and captured, if any, not being stated. The result of the skirmish is not mentioned, we are simply informed that the Federal troops entered Suffolk yesterday.

The Washington Chronicle is authorized to say that "General Doubleday did not prefer charges against General Meade to the Committee on the Conduct of the War; that he did not request the committee to investigate General Meade's conduct, nor did he ask to be summoned before the committee as a witness; and, lastly, General Doubleday never claimed to have received any order to retreat at Gettysburg, Pa."

An officer from the army of the Potomac, who reached Washington yesterday evening, reports that on the previous day, Wednesday, forty of the 30th Penn. cavalry were surrounded by guerrillas near Bristow Station, and were compelled to surrender. Several of them, however, it is added, subsequently escaped.

General Rosecrans has issued an order requiring all persons attending religious conventions, assemblies, and other convocations held in his department in Missouri, to take the most stringent oath of allegiance.

The rumors as to new negotiations by France for the recognition of the Confederate States are pronounced, from Washington, to be groundless.

SHERMAN'S EXPEDITION.

The following seems to be about the most intelligible and common sense summary of what this expedition achieved, and what it failed to achieve, that has been yet put forward:—N. Y. Express.

[Wash. Cor. World.]

Nothing was spared to make Sherman's expedition succeed. During the month which preceded its departure from Vicksburg a large quantity of transports had been descending the Mississippi from Cairo, Columbus and other points, loaded with troops. The arms, equipments, and provisions of the soldiers were selected for that object, and were particularly light. The rations, which were to last twenty days, had been condensed in tins, and were as unobtrusive as it is possible to imagine. Finally, the artillery, consisting of sixty-four field pieces, were altogether light and strong, and could run across the roughest roads without much fatigue for the horses, and without danger for the trains.—As a whole, the details of that expedition were attended to with the utmost care, without regard for the expenses, which indicate the hopes which the administration had placed in it.

Unfortunately the Rebels, aware of Sherman's object instead of waiting for his approach, fell back, destroying upon their passage all provisions, and making a desert of the country through which they passed.—When our army arrived at Meridian all means of subsistence had been taken away; the city itself was empty; a few old men, women, and negroes were the only population left. Polk, with fifteen thousand fresh troops had withdrawn on the other side of the Tombigbee. Montgomery was fortified; a strong body of troops were marching at all speed to the defence of Selma, and Forrest was rapidly advancing on our rear. Our soldiers, harassed by twenty days' journey, with their rations almost exhausted, were unable to proceed any further. In this critical juncture, Sherman decided to fall back; but in doing so he took along with him all the cattle he could find and the slaves who were on his way, and who willingly or unwillingly were compelled to follow him. Such are the details which have been brought to-day from Sherman's expedition by a gentleman coming from Nashville, in whose information I have the greatest confidence.

The following is the "Ordinance of Emancipation" reported to have been passed by the "Convention" in session in this place.

1. Slavery and involuntary servitude (except for crime) is hereby abolished and prohibited in the State forever.
2. Courts of competent jurisdiction may apprentice minors of African descent on like conditions provided by law, for apprenticing white children.
3. The General Assembly shall make no law establishing slavery or recognizing property in human beings.

DIED.

In this city, yesterday, Miss SARAH VAN SANT, in 75th year of her age. The funeral will take place from the residence of her brother, Mr. James Vanstant, No. 14 South Pitt street, at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning. The friends of the family are invited to attend.

On Sunday morning, March 6th, after a short and severe illness, JAMES A. HANDY, in the 24th year of his age, the son of Robert and Catharine Handy, of Breadfield, Me.

COAL!

TO ARRIVE from Philadelphia, cargo of superior LORREY RED ASH, and LOCUST MOUNT WHITE ASH COAL. JNO. LEATHERLAND, No. 26, King street.

mh 11—1w*
BARGAINS THAT ARE BARGAINS.
20 DOZEN fine GAUZE VEILS, in all colors at 85 cts.; 30 Embroidered COLLARS, at 25 cts., worth 75 cts. Also a new entire lot of RIBBONS, BONNETS and SHAKERS. Call and see at the cheap store of H. SCHWARZ.
[mh 11—tf]